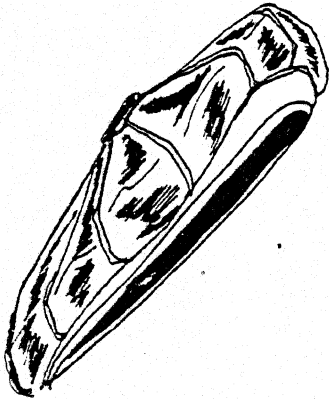


P.O. BOX 153,
STATION VICTORIA,
WESTMOUNT, QUEBEC H3Z 2V5 TRANSVESTITES A MONTREAL



TAMs & tissues

JUL 9 1982

DEAR FRIENDS:

Long time no see. Let me explain. This past two months have been so busy at work that I ahve not had the time to put this issue together. I ahve been able to answer the mail and organize the meetings but perhaps one of the members could become the newsletter Editor - I'll gladly surrender but will still help out if wanted.

We have tried the last two meetings on a Friday - It hasn't worked the way we had hoped so starting in September we will meet on the last Thursday of each month and hope for the best. We have added several new Associate Members this past while. Its very heartning to see so many request for membership from all over the StaTes and Canada. We are not trying to competé with any other group and gladly make referrals to other groups . The cooperation the other groups and papers have given to TAMs is wonderful. Please find a list of groups in the body of this newsletter - if you know a group that is not mentioned but you feel it should be just drop us a line and we will inculde it in our next issue this October.

TAMs particiapted in the Gay Solidarity Dance on May 8th. We were pleased to be asked and will participate again at the next event. We hope that the Réunion des Association Gai et Lesbienne à Montréal will become a viable spokesperson for the lesbian and gay communities in Montréal. We are a dissimilar community but we find that we have a home in the gay community here in Montréal. Thanks for letting us be a part of something good.

We need more articles etc. for our newsletter and that means you. Please send in news clippings or poems or short stories or anything - we will use it.

We also like letters to the editor. And starting soon we will revive Dear Bev letters. Beverley has consented to take acre of this section of the paper. Thanks Bev. Its good to have you back.

Well until the next issue Take care and write to us.

David - Coordinator

les sourcières

C.P. 384, Succ. La Cité
Montréal (Québec) H2W 2N9
(514) 288-4749

en quête de nos énergies-femmes

le 19 mars 9982

Transvestites à Montréal
P.O. Box 153
Station Victoria
Montréal H3Z 2V5

Bonjour!

I received TAMs & tissues, MAR 10 1982 today... It is very interesting but I do not understand why you sent it to Les Sourcières!

Les Sourcières is a group of women; we have a newsletter on spirituality and feminism; we organize activities, concerts, dances, picnics... All this is for women only... Most of us are lesbians, some are not... but we are all women...

Personnallly, I have nothing against men who dress and wear make up "like women"... the only thing is, I am not sure it is really "like women"... The love of disguise and masquerading is in every child, it is great fun... some of us loose this love of "halloween" when we grow up, some of us keep it (it seems to me it is a treasure!); If I could wear a costume, I ~~would~~ have fur, long tail, long nails, whiskers, cute little ears, and a "purring machine"... but as it is too much trouble, I am contented to live with Nugly-cat and Diana-cattess. It is easier for men to find women's things, and if it makes them feel good and be happy, theyMUST do it! I guess most men are too rigid and frustrated, that is what makes them so intolerant; if transvestism makes some men different, that is a very good thing indeed!

In "Qu'il était doux le temps du matriarcat!" (in french Châtelaine, octobre 77), GINETTE Paris wrote (my translation):

military music, short hair, (...) trees in a straight line, square buildings, (...) gray suits, symmetry, (...) uniforms and clothing regulation in every small detail (...) are expressions of patrism. (...) In patrists, we see a restraint of movements, gestures, voice... dances, songs, colourfull dressing, decorations, masquerades, love of the "hazy" (in french: l'amour du flou), of the deep forest, of assymetry, of what is round, are an expression of matrism...

In GOD HERSELF, the feminine roots of astrology (an Avon pocket book, #0-380-56143-3 \$3.95), Geraldine Thorsten writes that a few thousands years ago, our great-great-great-grand-fathers who were chosen as priests or kings wore feminine dresses and jewels to show they were "in powerful situation", somewhat goddesslike...

But what I think is not stressed enough in your newsletter --I have only one ^{issue} copy, so maybe I am talking through my hat-- is the need to change the values of this society: we need freedom from the sex roles and stereotypes, and this freedom can come only with a change of values and definitions.

In our society, there is only one way to be a male: "heterosexual and macho". If you are different, you are queer, pervert, things like that... The sex roles for women are no less stringent: OK I can wear pants, but I cannot work in any trade I would like, or go everywhere without the fear of being harrassed, raped, attacked in different ways... If I say out loud that I am a lesbian, I have to be very careful...

So, I think transvestites should work to bring this change of values and stereotypes, not promote them. I read things like:

the small fraction of homosexual transvestites get most of the public attention with their ABERRANT behavior (second page)

Why is a gay transvestite more ABERRANT than a straight one? The story never tells... Or, in "Myths of cross-dressing"

If you were really a homosexual you would be seeking a partner almost constantly

How is that for a MYTH? I am a lesbian, and I am not constantly looking for a sex partner... and I know many gay men who have jobs (where they WORK, not flirt) and do many things other than looking for sex, or should I say fast-sex (like in fast-food) (if they spend their life looking for it, they must do it real fast, or never find...)

I think that, if transvestites want the right to live in our society, they must recognize the right of others to live as they want:

right of the gays

right of having or not having a baby (contraception, abortion...)

right to say "no" to a sexual invitation

right to dress like we want, have the kind of hairdo we like, wear make up or not

right to enter "non traditional" trades, for men and women

right to say no to religion courses in school

right to have sexual education in the school that is positive about other ways of living our masculinity and our femininity

etc

If, like you write, a transvestite in his "male costume" looks like any other man, it should be quite easy (well, as easy as it is for feminists, lets say...) to work at changing the "rules of the game"... at trying new definitions of being a man or a woman, at accepting that, for exemple, gay men, "effeminate" men, are OK, that it is simply a different way of being a man (who ever saw a woman acting like an "effeminate" man? What we call "grande folle" in French is a different "kind" of man, not a woman!)

On your last page, you printed a small thing "Sex Change Surgery Changes Income, Too" Do you think this would be a good thing for transvestites to work on? That proves that the difference in income is based on gender and not on the personnality of the worker, so it might be as good a place to begin than any other...

Sorry, but we will win together, all of us "non conformist", or we will loose together! As well work on it, so we can win...

In solidarity,

Marie-Michèle ♀

Please, do not send your newsletter to Les Sourcières anymore, as we stop our publication with the issue that comes out at the end of the month... and transvestism is not one of my priorities. I used to be a "jill of all trades", but now I try to concentrate on the most important things for me, as I do not have enough time to work on everything. My priorities for now are the awakening of the Goddess (neo-paganism) and lesbianism, seen in the larger pattern of creating a new society, with new values...

I can work best on what I do know best: what I live and want to be ... →

In "Gender euphoria" (third page) do I understand properly?

I am the ruling force here
yes, the dominant sphere (...)
the male self (...)

STARTING TODAY THINGS WILL BE
DIFFERENT

"I used to be sad
I used to be shy..."
(opening Lyrics from the TV series
Alice)

More accurate words regarding the change that occurs in my personality when I'm dressed could probably not be found. As a male, I used to be sad, I used to be shy, but as a woman, I'm alive, vibrant and full of life. Sounds simple, doesn't it? Put on a dress, a wig and makeup and voila. Well voila does not come that easily.

I've been attending the group regularly for close to two years. For close to two years I have not dressed. Initial anxiety and not knowing anyone was a reasonable excuse at first not to dress. After that, the excuse became the standard, "well I have no clothes/wardrobe", and "I don't know how to put on makeup". However, more importantly I was not yet ready to dress, it did not feel right as I was just beginning to discover my true self.

Virtually each meeting I attended I was given a more pertinent version of the line, "take my wife please!" Everyone was willing to help dress me, everyone except me. Even I was beginning to think I was a mole for the RCMP. In the meantime I simply told everyone that I would dress when I was ready. At the rate I was going you probably could have found an 80 degree day in December.

Finally that 80 degree day came, though you won't find it any weather log. The time had come where I got the courage to go out and buy some clothes and had decided that I wanted to dress. The important word is, I wanted. I finally had come to the point where I knew what I wanted to do and knew what I needed to do. The desire and need had actually been deep inside of me for years and years and I knew eventually I would. And finally I did.

My male and female sides are virtually exact opposites. As a woman I am the person I should be, while as a male, I am truly unhappy. So when I came as a woman to the last meeting for the first time, the difference in myself was amazing. You, even I, (had you known-me) would not believe the change in personality - saying that the difference was like night and day would be an understatement.

An important factor in this overall picture is the fact that my body and facial features are well suited to being a woman. With a very good makeup job, the result is excellent. I pass quite easily and this certainly plays a fairly large role in how I feel as a woman. Combining a very good 'look', and the right frame of mind on my part (where I want to be the woman I truly feel I am), the euphoric feeling was amazing. Never in my life can I remember feeling so great, so high, so enjoyable and ALL I did was dress. Well that's not actually true, all I did was take one of the early steps that will eventually allow myself to become the true me.

To end off, I'll use another line from the opening lyrics of the CBS series, Alice, as there is nothing more appropriate:

"...This girl is here to stay
for awhile." Quite awhile.

By: Laura

VICTOR/VICTORIA

For those who have followed the films of Blake Edwards, you may have noticed a common denominator aside from the fact that his wife, Julie Andrews, has played the lead in his more recent films. In the Pink Panther Strikes Again there is a butler who performs in drag, in the Revenge of the Pink Panther, Inspector Clousseau is accosted by a gorgeous TV and in S.O.B., there are a few references and scenes which include transvestites. Apparently there is an interest by Blake Edwards regarding Transvestism and this could partially explain some of the reasoning behind his latest release.

In Victor/Victoria, Julie Andrews portrays a woman pretending to be a man pretending to be a woman. Now if you still remember Ms. Andrews from The Sound of Music and as Mary Poppins, this should surely change your opinion of her. The point of Blake Edwards previous movie, S.B.O. - Where Julie Andrews bares her breasts, was to change Julie's lily white image. Victor/Victoria illustrates that this change is not a one-shot deal, while also aptly showcasing the many talents of Julie Andrews.

Playing a down and out singer, Victoria (Julie Andrews) accidentally crosses the path of a gay nightclub singer excellently portrayed by Robert Preston. With both of them broke Preston soon suggests that Victoria should pretend to be a man pretending to be a woman - a brain-storm he gets when he sees Victoria put on one of his suits out of necessity. The rest is history as Victoria becomes Victor who becomes Victoria on stage and is a phenomenal success. That is the essence of the film which also includes a tremendously stunning performance by Lesly Ann Warren as THE dumbest blonde that has

ever existed, and, another well played role by James Garner as King Martin the nightclub owner who is not sure whether he has fallen in love with a man or a woman.

You may say that it is very easy for a woman to pretend to be a woman. However, Julie Andrews not only does a convincing job of playing a man, but she even manages to convince you that she is truly a man portraying a woman. As a female impersonator her makeup and costumes make her look better than she has ever appeared before. She looks more feminine than Julie Andrews ever has and she also appears more graceful than ever. Further when she pulls off her headpiece after a performance there is no doubt she is a he, even though he is a she.

Victor/Victoria is a very well done film which covers both female and male impersonation. We are shown the lifestyle of a female impersonator on stage and living as a male, while we are also shown the power a woman obtains living as a man. Further, it covers the lives of gay character portraying them as normal human beings, in fact if anyone is truly caricatured, it is the heterosexual roles. As I stated, Lesly Ann Warren does a smashing portrayal of a dumb blonde, playing it to the hilt, yet realistically. King Martin (James Garner) has problems with people's perception of him as they think he is dating a man. Victor/Victoria shows that straight people have problems and that gays enjoy themselves. It is the gays who are normal and the straights are confused. True gays do have problems, but it is nice to be shown that we can also enjoy ourselves.

Blake Edwards has taken an important subject and handled it excellently while lacing it with humour, a marvellous combination. Perhaps we can look forward to more TV oriented movies from him in the future. It is only too bad that they have already recast the role of the late Peter Sellers with another male, otherwise they could possibly given Inspector Clousseau a sex-change.

Victor/Victoria is a film you should go see, if only for the fact that it is two hours of pure entertainment. However, it has a lot more to offer and just as importantly, good movies on such subjects are few and far between.

Reviewed by: Laura

NEW LADY (post-op M-F TS)

You were a lady before
But now a woman--even more
That you have a new lease on life
And are finally free--to be!

Mind and body are at last in harmony
The Yin principle now fully reigns queen
Your budding femininity blossoms
Into a bloom of graceful loveliness.

The cocooned moth turns into a pretty butterfly
Cinderella changes into a smiling princess
Plain Jane becomes the beautiful belle of the ball
Today, the radiant Ruby is a brighter jewel.

c. 1981 by Rupert Raj, B.A., Director
METAMORPHOSIS: Gender Counselling-Educational Services
P.O. Box 5963, Station 'A', Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P4

Permission is hereby granted to the Editor of TAMS AND TISSUES (newsletter) to reprint the above two poems (one per issue) in the said newsletter--a condition of permission being the inclusion of the copyright date, my full name, degree, title, and address(as listed above) beneath each poem--in exchange for a complimentary copy of each newsletter in which my poem (article or ad) may appear.

WANTED!!!

Poems, limericks, free verse on themes related to: transsexualism, transvestism, and androgyny for inclusion in forthcoming book: An Anthology Of TS, TV, And Androgynous Verse. Send submissions to: Rupert Raj, Metamorphosis, P.O. Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4.



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Rupert Raj, B.A.

Rupert Raj

Man resents leg-shaving taboo

DEAR ANN: Why is it considered taboo for men to shave their legs or any part of their body except the face?

The reason I ask is because I find it a real turn-on. I like the feel of my smooth body rather than all that hair. Also, my under-arm deodorant is more effective when applied to a hair-free armpit.

My body hair is fine and straight. It pulls on the back of my thighs when I sit and is dishevelled when I remove my trousers. I decided two years ago to shave my legs and thighs, chest and armpits and I like the feeling.

I can only do it in the winter, however, because I enjoy going to the beach and a shaved male would be viewed as strange.

I have heard women on the beach comment about men who look like apes. This convinced me that if the

ANN
LANDERS



culture could be conditioned to accept the shaved male, all men would love it, as I do. Do you agree?

— Curious

Dear Curious: Traditionally, hairiness has been symbolic of masculinity. The shaved bodies at the beach are almost always homosexuals.

Today's male deodorants work well without shaving the armpits. As for the chest, legs and thighs, it would seem like a horrendous, time-consuming chore, and the man would end up looking like a plucked chicken unless he shaved often.

Obviously you have a fixation, or you would not be concerned about

the hair on the back of your legs being "dishevelled."

However, if shaving your body turns you on, go ahead and do it. It's your business and harms no one.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I are about the same size. For years she raided my closets and took my jeans, shirts, sweaters, etc. When I complained, she'd tell me to buy more. This I did time and time again, but she continued to wear my clothes.

Finally I put on one of her dresses and paraded into the kitchen. She said I looked "cute" and went about her business. I tried this a few more times, then a funny thing happened. I started to like it.

She started to help me put outfits together — panty hose, heels, then makeup and a wig, and she'd wear the pants. We've done this only at home, but we're considering going out this way. We enjoy switching roles. (It's done wonders for our sagging sex lives.) Are we crazy? Or just caught up in the times? This isn't a prank letter. It's real. What do you think?

LIKING IT IN HARLEM, GA.

DEAR LIKING: You didn't invent anything. This has been going on for centuries. You are not crazy, but before you go out that way you'd better check with the local laws. It's against the law in some cities to "masquerade" in this manner.

Sunday Express, December 13, 1981

Accusés d'avoir violé, volé et séquestré un travesti et une transsexuelle

Journal de Montréal
Jeudi 11 mai 1982

Fernand Fleury, 39 ans, et Jean Boucher, 25 ans, ont commencé à subir, hier, leur procès pour l'enlèvement, la séquestration, la sodomie et le vol à main armée d'un travesti du centre-ville de Montréal.

Les accusés l'auraient aussi dépouillé de son manteau de fourrure, de ses bijoux et de son argent qu'il évaluait globalement à \$9,500 dollars.

Selon Me Hélène Morin, qui agit pour la Couronne, l'incident est survenu au petit matin le 23 décembre de l'an

Ives Beaudin

La présumée victime, un jeune homme de 21

ans, a raconté au juge Charles Cliche comment elle avait été projetée dans une voiture, puis entraînée dans une ruelle voisine où on l'aurait agressée.

Interrogée par Me Roland Boyer sur son état psychologique, elle a déclaré avoir subi l'ablation du pénis à l'hôpital Reddy Memorial de Montréal.

Quelques membres de l'assistance sympa-

thiques au témoin ont alors crié leur indignation devant les termes crus employés par l'accusé.

Le témoin a aussi expliqué que lorsque ses papiers d'état civil seront définitivement changés par les soins de son procureur, il sera impossible de savoir qu'elle a déjà été un homme.

Le juge Cliche a reporté la prochaine audience à la mi-avril.

TS NEWSLETTERS

BEAUMONT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, BM.
Box No. 3084, London, U.K. WCIV6XX*

The BI-LETTER, Lee Risemberg, The Bi-Social Center, 7136 Matilija Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91405 *

CROSSROADS CHATTER, Grace Bacon, Box 3013, Flint, MI 48502 (SASE) *

GENDER REVIEW, Susan Huxford, Box 291, Stn. A, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8 (\$6 per year)

METAMORPHOSIS, Rupert Raj, Box 5963, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4 (\$12 per year)

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER, Ariadne Kane, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215 (\$10 per year) *

PHOENIX MONTHLY-INTERNATIONAL, Georgia Saunders, Gateway Gender Alliance, Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 (\$20 per year) *

RENAISSANCE UPDATE, Jude Patton, Box 11341, Santa Ana, CA 92711 (\$10 per year)

SHAFT (SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS) NEWSLETTER, Judith Cousins, 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, U.K. (L8 per yr.)

TAMS & TISSUES, David Cassidy, Transvestites A Montreal, Box 153, Station Victoria, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3Z 2V5 (\$12 per year) *

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE, Phoebe Smith, 764 North Ave., Hapeville, GA 30354 (\$12 per year)

TVIC JOURNAL, William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 (\$12 per year) *

TV/TS TAPESTRY, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, The Tiffany Club, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 (\$25 per year) *

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